

Seattle Fire Department Policy on Primary Revenue Source for Nightclubs

One of three criteria in determining applicability of the Washington State Law requiring retroactive fire sprinklers in nightclubs is the primary revenue source of the business. For the purpose of the fire sprinkler law the definition of a nightclub subject to the requirement, in part, is one that “Has as its primary source of revenue (a) the sale of beverages of any kind for consumption on the premises, (b) cover charges, or (c) both;”

A business claiming that their primary source of revenue is from other than the sale of beverages and/or cover charges shall submit for viewing by the Seattle Fire Department and personnel from the Revenue and Consumer Affairs Division financial and accounting records documenting their sources of revenue from the previous year. The financial and accounting records shall include the following items:

- Prior year’s revenues from beverages, cover charges and food sales, or
- Prior year’s expenditures for beverages and food, average markup for each, and the prior year’s revenue from cover charges

Where a business has not operated for a full year prior, the business shall provide documentation for the period of operation to date.

If businesses desire, the Financial records providing the above information should be directed to:

Seattle Fire Department
Nightclub Sprinkler Project
220 3 Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104

Taxpayer financial information will be safeguarded and not publicly disclosed in accordance with Seattle Municipal Code 5.55.200.

When no financial data is presented substantiating the claim that the primary source of revenue was from other than beverage sales and cover charges, the claim will be disallowed and the sprinkler system will be required.